

MINISTRY CORE VALUES

Ministry Core Value #1 Intentional Mission Development

Under the Gospel Imperative of the Great Commission, the Michigan District values the planting and development of new congregations and mission societies which result in the generation of a new audience for the Gospel by bringing the message of Jesus Christ to the unchurched and dechurched populations within the State of Michigan. This core value will summon the District to give priority to such activities as:

- A. Planting new mission congregations
- B. Partnering with mission societies and RSO's
- C. Assisting local congregations and RSO's to call missionary personnel
- D. Calling and deploying missionary personnel to specific mission fields
- E. Multiplying, equipping (through appropriate agencies), certifying and placing lay missionary personnel
- F. Providing support for existing urban, ethnic and transcultural ministries, and church planting
- G. Continual environmental scanning (demographics) and interpretation of the Michigan mission harvest field
- H. Encouraging every district congregation to be mission minded and culturally relevant so as to honor Christ and reach the lost.
- I. Encouraging and assisting congregations to support and be involved in the world mission efforts of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

10/26/04

Ministry Core Value #2 Networking Congregations

The Michigan District values collaborative, interdependent and coaching relationships. Such networking provides a positive pathway to expansion of congregational mission and ministry. To this end, vital linkages between congregations shall be established, providing a forum for such mutually beneficial functions as:

- A. Effective community outreach
- B. Diffusion of innovation
- C. Access to resources
- D. Process consulting, planning and decision making
- E. Healthy congregational systems
- F. Congregational self-study, evaluation and planning
- G. Affirmation of congregational uniqueness
- H. Pastoral, staff and lay leadership development

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Ministry Core Value #3 Providing and supporting Professional Church Workers

The Michigan District values assisting congregations and professional church workers and to this end will provide quality staff support services such as:

- A. Coaching for staff configuration and/or expansion
- B. Development of relevant and appropriate ministry descriptions
- C. Assisting congregations to identify staff candidates
- D. Church worker support, health and encouragement
- E. Assisting in the management of conflict

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**Ministry Core Value #4
Support for Families**

The Michigan District values ministry to Christian and non-Christian families, recognizing that the family is the central unit of Christian nurture. The District will provide resources to congregations designed to establish, support and strengthen the family in Christ and will facilitate events to complement the role of families.

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**Ministry Core Value #6
Locally *supported* ministry
to special fields**

The Michigan District values ministry into special mission fields through congregational and cluster-based outreach. In addition to calling and deploying mission developers for specific and appropriate mission fields, the Michigan District will provide appropriate resources and funding support as local congregations and ministry agencies sponsor such ministries and call ministry staff.

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**Ministry Core Value #5
Lutheran Schools, Preschools
and Child Care Centers**

The Michigan District values the discipling of children through Lutheran schools and preschool/child care centers in the spiritual formation and local mission outreach. To this end, such educational agencies will be supported through quality support services which include such activities as:

- A. Professional growth through in-service workshops and conferences
- B. Accreditation and State certification
- C. Encouragement and on-site support visits
- D. Conflict intervention
- E. Liaison with State and/or private educational agencies

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**Ministry Core Value #7
Financial Development for
Congregations,
District and Synodical Ministries**

Recognizing that congregational, District and Synodical ministries will benefit from all legitimate sources of funding support, the Michigan District values financial development through such God-honoring strategies as:

- A. Utilizing the Michigan District development officer(s)
- B. Establishing ministry endowments/foundations
- C. Maintaining fiscal Integrity
- D. Maximizing the use of resources
- E. Determining the spending plan of the District based on Board of Directors' Outcomes

10/04